CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of generating a network zone plan, comprising:

    collecting device connectivity information for devices in a network;

    performing an analysis on the collected information to infer relationships between the devices;

    identifying policies to be utilized in generating a zone plan of the network; and

    generating the zone plan base3d on a combination of the analysis performed and the identified zoning policies.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the network is a storage area network (SAN).

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the zone plan dictates which of the devices are visible to each other.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the devices include host systems to access data and storage subsystems which are providers of data.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the zone plan is a network-layer access control mechanism which dictates which storage subsystems are visible to which hosts.

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6. The method of claim 1 further comprises presenting the zone plan for approval, wherein the zone plan is not implemented until approval is received.

7. A computer program product having instruction codes for providing autonomic zoning in a storage area network, comprising:

a first set of instruction codes for collecting device connectivity information for devices in a network;

a second set of instruction codes for performing an analysis on the collected information to infer relationships between the devices;

a third set of instruction codes for identifying policies to be utilized in generating a zone plan of the network; and

a fourth set of instruction codes for generating the zone plan based on a combination of the analysis performed and the identified zoning policies.

8. The computer program product of claim 7 wherein the network is a storage area network (SAN).

9. The computer program product of claim 7 wherein the zone plan dictates which of the devices are visible to each other.

10. The computer program product of claim 9 wherein the devices include host systems to access data and storage subsystems which are providers of data.

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11. The computer program product of claim 10 wherein the zone plan is a network-layer access control mechanism which dictates which storage subsystems are visible to which hosts.

12. The computer program product of claim 7 further comprises presenting the zone plan for approval, wherein the zone plan is not implemented until approval is received.

13. A system to provide autonomic zoning in a network, comprising:

an autonomic zoning management module to autonomically generate zoning plans pertaining to a network, according to a combination of each device in the network's connectivity information and user generated policies.

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